In the Claims:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

Insert the following New Claims:

23. (New) A device for storing and handling optical waveguides comprising a frame and a plurality of splice cases arranged one above the other on a front side and on a rear side of the frame and pivotably fastened to the frame, wherein fiber guiding elements for optical fibers are fastened at least to one vertically running narrow side of the frame such that the optical fibers are guided laterally next to the splice cases in the region of the narrow side.

24. (New) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the fiber guiding elements are fastened exclusively to one vertically running narrow side of the frame, and wherein the optical fibers are guided laterally next to the splice cases exclusively in the region of the one narrow side.

25. (New) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the fiber guiding elements are fastened to both vertically running narrow sides of the frame, and wherein the optical fibers are guided laterally next to the splice cases in the region of both narrow sides.

26. (New) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the fiber guiding elements arranged in the region of the narrow side form at least two vertically running guiding channels for optical fibers, a first guiding channel being assigned to the front side of the frame and a second guiding channel being assigned to the rear side of the frame.

27. (New) The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the two guiding channels are spatially separated from one another by at least one vertically running separating wall, and wherein the separating wall has an aperture in a lower portion so that the optical fibers are diverted from the first guiding channel into the second guiding channel, and consequently from the front side of the frame to the rear side of the frame.

28. (New) The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein each of the guiding channels is subdivided into two guiding channel compartments such that at least two vertically running guiding channel compartments extend in the region of the front side of the frame and in the region of the rear side of the frame.

29. (New) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the two vertically running guiding channel compartments comprise inner guiding channel compartments, of which a first runs in the region of the front side of the frame and a second runs in the region of the rear side of the frame, separated from one another by a separating wall.

30. (New) The device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the guiding channel compartments running in the region of the front side and in the region of the rear side of the frame are separated from each other by a plurality of separating webs spaced apart from one another, an aperture being formed between two neighboring separating webs such that the optical fibers in the region of the front side and in the region of the rear side of the frame can be diverted between the respective guiding channel compartments.

31. (New) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the fiber guiding elements fastened to the narrow side form curved guiding channels such that individual optical fibers may be fed to the splice cases through the curved guiding channels.

32. (New) A device for storing and handling optical waveguides comprising a frame, a plurality of splice cases arranged one above the other on a front side and on a rear side of the frame and pivotably fastened to the frame, and a drawer that is guided in the frame and can be pulled out in the horizontal direction from a first vertically running narrow side of the frame, the drawer being arranged in the pushed-in position between the splice cases arranged on the front side and the splice cases arranged on the rear side of the frame, the drawer configured for storing uncut multifiber buffer tubes of optical fibers.

33. (New) The device as claimed in claim 32, wherein the drawer has on one vertically running side at least one actuating grip and has on horizontally running sides guides for the multifiber buffer tubes.

34. (New) The device as claimed in claim 32, wherein one or more fiber guiding elements for optical fibers are fastened to a second vertically running narrow side of the frame opposite the first narrow side such that the optical fibers are guided laterally next to the splice cases exlusively in the region of the second narrow side.

35. (New) The device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the fiber guiding elements fastened to the second narrow side form at least two vertically running guiding channels, a first guiding channel being assigned to the front side of the frame and a second guiding channel being assigned to the rear side of the frame.

36. (New) A device for storing and handling optical waveguides comprising a frame, a plurality of splice cases arranged one above the other on a front side and on a rear side of the frame and pivotably fastened to the frame, and guiding channels arranged within the splice cases such that the optical fibers are guided within the splice cases in a circular manner.

37. (New) The device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the guiding channels are arranged such that at least three interlinked and overlapping circular guides are formed in each splice case.

38. (New) The device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the circular guides are aligned in relation to one another such that the circular guides merge tangentially with one another in a central portion of the splice cases.

39. (New) The device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the circular guides are aligned in relation to one another such that the optical fibers can be guided in a circular manner with approximately the same radii, irrespective of their length.

40. (New) The device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the circular guides are aligned in relation to one another such that storage space for excess lengths of the optical fibers is formed in lateral portions of the splice cases.

41. (New) A device for storing and handling optical waveguides comprising a frame and a plurality of splice cases arranged one above the other on a front side and on a rear side of the frame and pivotably fastened to the frame, wherein optical fibers are guided by cylindrical axial bodies of the splice cases such that a direction of insertion of the optical fibers into a splice case runs approximately parallel to a pivoting axis of the respective splice case, and wherein the cylindrical axial body of a respective splice case is axially slit such that the optical fibers can be inserted into the cylindrical axial body in the radial direction through an opening therein.

42. (New) The device as claimed in claim 41, wherein guiding webs are integrated in the splice cases to prevent the optical fibers from falling out from the opening of the cylindrical axial body when the respective splice case is pivoted.

43. (New) The device as claimed in claim 41, wherein the guiding webs are configured such that the optical fibers lie against an inner wall of the cylindrical axial body opposite the opening.

44. (New) The device as claimed in claim 41, wherein the cylindrical axial bodies of the splice cases define a hollow cylinder.